

CAPTAIN REAL

From
IVOR
DAVIS in
Hollywood



Crew of the Starship Enterprise at their posts.

William Shatner has finally learned to love and respect Captain James Kirk.

For almost two decades the most famous space voyager in TV history has been struggling with his alter ego.

But the captain made Montreal-born Shatner famous from the 79 TV episodes and three completed films.

Not long ago, Shatner was in favor of dumping Kirk, his crew and the Starship Enterprise on some lonely planet.

But in the last five years, after taking his one-man show on the road and finding he could break house records in stage plays across the country, Shatner realises what the good captain did for him.

Trekkies (fans of Star Trek) some of whom had never stepped inside a legitimate theatre, rushed to see him.

Kirk, he discovered, has turned into his own personal golden goose.

He no longer resents the fact that he was once better known as Kirk than as Shatner.

In Star Trek III, Shatner is once again off into the galactic wilderness to try and save his old Enterprise buddy — everyone's favorite Vulcan — Mr Spock, played as always by Leonard Nimoy.

Those who showed up

ABOVE: The TV series T.J. Hooker stars WILLIAM SHATNER.

RIGHT: SHATNER as millions of viewers know him, as Capt James Kirk.

Temple horror sparks

Sardar Amolak Singh has never cared much for politics.

A Sikh, he has lived in London for more than 20 years and leads a small group of people who wander about Britain looking after Sikh temples.

But over the past few weeks he has had something of a political re-awakening.

"When Mrs Gandhi ordered her troops into the Golden Temple I realised that we Sikhs no longer have a place in India," he said.

"How could she have ordered the invasion of our holiest shrine?"

"I am not a violent man and I did not support Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his use of terrorism to

From KARL WILSON in London

promote the Sikh cause. But the past two weeks have changed that.

"Yes, I want to see an independent Sikh State. And yes, I am prepared to fight for it."

Sardar is typical of the 400,000 Sikhs living in Britain.

A quiet, proud people they came to Britain in their thousands just after India's independence in 1947.

Like many minority ethnic groups they feared a bloodbath from the Hindu majority once the British pulled out.

Their fears were realised but most of the fighting took place between Hindus and the Moslems of the new

States of East (now Bangladesh) and West Pakistan.

When the Union Jack came down for the last time at midnight on August 14, 1947, Britain left behind one of the world's most complex areas with its myriad of languages, religions and races.

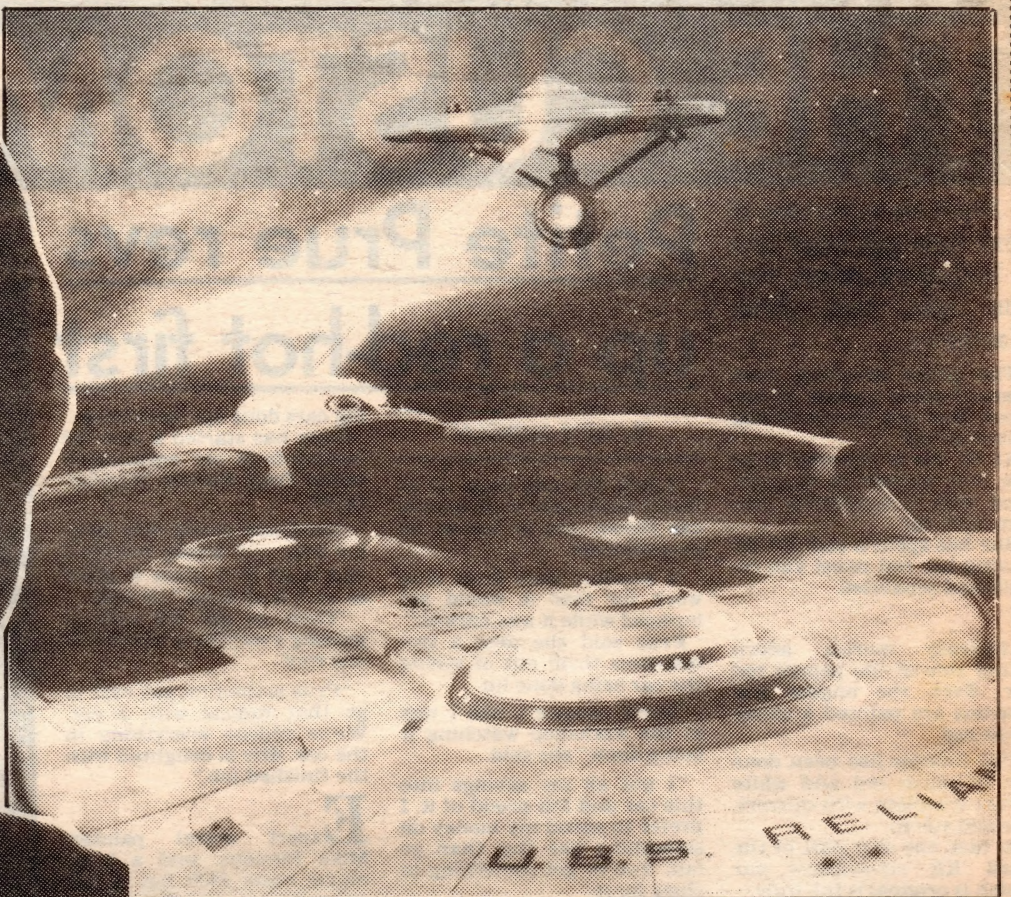
With independence came the great unanswered question — how long will it last before civil war breaks out?

For 37 years successive Indian governments have suppressed any trouble and more often than not it has cost many lives.

But events at Amritsar in the northern Sikh State of Punjab has given India its most serious challenge since independence.

KIRK'S STAR TREK

Mr Spock's back for third movie



LEFT: LEONARD NIMOY as Mr Spock, the emotionless Vulcan and Kirk's right-hand man.

RIGHT: A scene from Star Trek: Wrath Of Khan, popular with trekkies and actors.

for Star Trek II may recall how the "dead" Spock, in a moving funeral ceremony, was jettisoned from the Enterprise into an unknown, but presumably everlasting, limbo.

It doesn't take a great mind to realise that Star Trek III would fizzle without a magical return of the pointy-eared, ever logical Spock.

This time, Leonard Nimoy actually directs the picture, but does not appear in the credits.

Says Nimoy: "Obviously I wouldn't make a picture that has Kirk at the end turning to the audience and saying, 'sorry folks, we couldn't find him.'"

And he adds: "The only question is when we find him what form is he in? Is he dead or alive, vegetable or animal?"

"Has he mutated into something else. Has he turned into an evil Spock?"

William Shatner smiles mysteriously when the fate of Spock comes up.

On the Star Trek set, he says, film scripts were guarded and he and the rest of the crew sworn to secrecy about the plot line.

After three years of Star Trek on TV - the show

went to more than 100 countries - the series was cancelled in 1969 despite massive protests.

It tripled its income in mass syndication, attracting an incredible cult following and simply making millions for Paramount Pictures.

Shatner and the rest of the cast did not share in the new wealth, however, so that when Paramount decided to resurrect it as a movie with Robert (Sound Of Music) Wise directing, Shatner, like most of the show's other leads, had to be persuaded.

The first movie cost \$43 million, ran way over budget, and was criticised for ignoring the stars and concentrating on gadgetry and jazzy special effects.

Still, it made more than \$200 million at the box office.

The sequel, the Wrath Of Khan, almost didn't get made because of the cast's disgust with the first effort.

It was Shatner who painstakingly convinced the others, notably Nimoy, to try again. And the Nicholas Meyer \$10 million

picture pleased both cast and trekkies.

"Now they've got it down to a fine art," says Shatner.

"They know how much they can spend in the \$10 to \$15 million range, and what kind of money they can earn from each picture."

"I could see them doing maybe 50 more Star Treks every 18 months or two years. There is an audience for them out there."

Shatner seems to have his own career down to an art form, also.

He's switched successfully from outer space to earth as law and order cop T.J. Hooker in a series that has also found its audience.

"Hooker is a conservative, right wing guy," says Shatner, "but not a Dirty Harry."

"Late in the season the stories began to get a bit flabby. We went a little soft and the rating sagged. But I think we've caught it."

He's also found time to star opposite Cybill Shepherd and Michelle Phillips in a TV movie, Trick Eyes, about a guy who falls in love with a prostitute.

Shatner has also hosted a one hour TV special on futuristic developments in computers, modern living and space travel.

He wants to direct and star in a movie based on the life of Colonel Bo Gritz, the mercenary who was arrested when he went to Vietnam to try to find Americans missing in action.

Shatner has optioned Gritz' life story and says it's fascinating.

He said: "It's a sad and bitter situation."

"I do believe some men are still there. My movie would be a political one not just an adventure saga."

Shatner has a house in Hollywood but to escape from filmland he spends time at his recently acquired 27ha horse farm in central California.

His passion these days, he says, is breeding quarter horses, cutting horses and saddle-bred horses for show round the country.

He recently bought the two-year-old world champion saddle-bred, Great Day.

a world Sikh backlash

When Prime Minister Indira Gandhi ordered troops to invade the Golden Temple at Amritsar - the Sikhs' holiest shrine - it resulted in a savage backlash, not only in India but also from Sikhs around the world.

In Britain, Indian diplomatic offices in London, Birmingham, Glasgow, and Liverpool were firebombed along with Indian banks and Hindu temples.

Around the world Sikhs have held mass demonstrations, demanding revenge.

The fact that 36-year-old Sikh militant leader Bhindranwale, killed in the attack, had turned the holy temple complex into a fortress from which he directed his terrorist campaign, was not at issue.

For Sikhs, it was the temple invasion. To them it was deliberate desecration.

The Indian Government has not put an exact figure on the number killed in the Golden Temple, but estimates vary from 700 to 1000.

To understand how fewer than 10 million people in a nation of 700 million can pose such a threat to the government, you must know something of the Sikhs.

From their inception they have exerted an influence on the sub-continent far greater than their numbers.

The religion was founded in northern India in the late 1400s as a development of Hinduism.

They reject the cast system, do not drink or smoke, and worship consists of reading from the Granth Sahib, the collected works of the 10 gurus.

They are a vigorous, assertive, enterprising people who have created enemies and empires wherever they have settled.

In the past two world wars they fought with honor and distinction and their courage has not been questioned.

They control Punjab, India's richest and most prosperous State. It contributes a substantial part of the country's essential exports and grows most of the wheat which just staves off the ever-present threat of nationwide famine.

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